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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1097  
By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Florence Simons  
Currin on the celebration of her one-hundredth  
birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to  
those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Florence Simons Currin will celebrate her one-hundredth birthday on May  
28, 2002, an occasion that will be commemorated with great joy in remembering the past, giving  
thanks for the present, and anticipating the future; and

WHEREAS, a native of Memphis, Mrs. Currin is a public-spirited citizen of the highest  
order and an exceptional asset to her community and this State; and

WHEREAS, she is the beloved daughter of Hattie Mae and Harry Simons, who are  
deceased; growing up, she enjoyed the love and companionship of her four sisters: Harry Mae,  
and Lucille, and Evelyn, and Natlyn who are deceased; and

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WHEREAS, in 1909, Florence Simons Currin became ill with typhoid fever and was confined for one year; during her illness, her mother taught her to play the piano and assisted her in her academic studies; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Currin was a highly-regarded student at Grant School and Kortrecht Intermediate School; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished graduate of LeMoyne Normal Institute, she was selected to play two piano pieces at her graduation ceremony in 1920; and

WHEREAS, Florence Simons Currin attended Hampton University in Virginia before returning to Tennessee, and beginning her teaching career at Capleville Elementary School in 1920; and

WHEREAS, in 1921, Mrs. Currin accepted a teaching position with the Somerville School; and

WHEREAS, in 1922, she married her sweetheart, Jacob R. Currin, who passed away in 1970; the Currins were blessed with ten wonderful children: Clarence, who is deceased; Jacob, Jr., who is deceased; John; Florence, who is deceased; Grace; Cynthia; Christine; Charles, who is deceased; Adam; and David Currin; and

WHEREAS, a devoted wife and mother, Florence Simons Currin has made her home a haven of joy and beauty; when her children were young, she assisted them with all aspects of their education in addition to teaching them how to play the piano; and

WHEREAS, between 1923 and 1946, Mrs. Currin became the proud aunt of Clyde Thompson, Helen Thompson, Harry Thompson, William Thompson, Everett Thompson, Robert Johnson, Jr., Paul Thompson, Joyce McAnulty, Fredrick Thompson, Ann Thompson, Teresa Thompson, and Simone McAnulty; a beloved aunt, she is affectionately known as "Dar"; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, she was blessed with the birth of her first grandchild and the subsequent years have brought the joyous births of thirteen more beautiful grandchildren; twenty-two great grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild; she is the proud grandmother

of: Joye Cerise, Jesse Roland, Deborah Camilla, Carl Everett, Cheryl Cerise, David Russell, Terry Lee, Sharon Camilla, Babbette, Cecil Gene, Gina Denise, Russell, John Adam, and Adeline; and

WHEREAS, a talented author, Florence Simons Currin first began writing short stories only as a hobby; she published her first short story in 1952 and a short article in *Reader's Digest* in 1953; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, Mrs. Currin moved to Chicago, Illinois, where she worked as a child care provider; and

WHEREAS, she accepted a position as a Clerk with the United States Treasury Department in 1960; during her five years of service with the U.S. Treasury Department, she earned the respect of her peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, committed to lifelong learning, Florence Simons Currin attended typing and hat-making classes at Jones Commercial High School in 1964; and

WHEREAS, due to health problems, Mrs. Currin retired from the U.S. Treasury Department and returned to Memphis to recuperate in 1965; and

WHEREAS, a conscientious member of her community, she has dedicated her time and energies to the betterment of her fellow citizens, serving in numerous community organizations and programs; since 1970, she has been active with the Gaston Senior Citizens and has generously participated in volunteer work with the senior citizens of the Memphis area; and

WHEREAS, completing hundreds of hours of volunteer work, Florence Simons Currin has been a valued member of the Unity of Memphis, the Tennessee Federation of Colored Women, the LeMoyne-Owen Alumni Association, the WLOK Community Involvement Board, the MIFA Volunteers, the Lovely Ladies Social Club, the Merry Circle, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, the National Council of Senior Citizens, the Lewis Center Senior Citizens, the American Association of Retired Persons, the YWCA, the NAACP, the Christian Ladies, and the Unity Welfare Committee; and

WHEREAS, an esteemed citizen of Memphis, Mrs. Currin was awarded the RSVP Service Award for community work as a senior volunteer in 1976; recognized by Volunteers in Action for outstanding and significant contributions to Memphis and Shelby County through volunteer service in 1978; honored by WLOK Radio as Citizen of the Week in 1978; recognized by Senior Citizens Services, Inc. for enriching the lives of elderly citizens in 1978; honored as Mother of the Year with the Margaret Bland-McKissick Award in 1988; and awarded Mother of the Year by the Unity Center of Memphis in 1991; and

WHEREAS, she has astutely served as the delegate to The National Council on Aging in Washington D.C., where she was interviewed on national television as well as a delegate for the National Council on Aging in Chicago; she has also appeared in a Citizens in Action Promo for a local Memphis television station; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Florence Simons Currin was honored by LeMoyne-Owen College on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her graduating class and, in 2001, she was featured in *The Beacon*, a LeMoyne-Owen College publication, for being one of four generations of LeMoyne-Owen College graduates; and

WHEREAS, a woman of great faith, Mrs. Currin was raised in the Collins Chapel Church and is an active member of the Metropolitan Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, she was honored by the Miles Memorial CME Church in Washington, D.C., along with her sisters, Harry Mae Simons and Evelyn McAnulty, as granddaughters of the church's founding minister and first pastor, Reverend William Simons; and

WHEREAS, throughout her life, Florence Simons Currin has distinguished herself as a woman of the utmost integrity, character, and faith; a wonderful human being, she is an inspiration to all who know her; and

WHEREAS, friends and family will gather on May 25, 2002 at the Metropolitan Baptist Church to celebrate the centennial birthday of this most remarkable woman; and

WHEREAS, it is the pleasure of this General Assembly at the tenth decade of Mrs. Currin's life to honor her benevolent and steadfast service to her family, community, and this great State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Florence Simons Currin on the celebration of her one-hundredth birthday, recognize her life of gracious service and goodwill, and extend to her our best wishes for much continued happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.